

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Roy Chavera, Samantha Blizzard, Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Richard Romer, Christ Burt, Kristina McConnell, Elisse Barnes, Kenneth Flemmer, Fisseha Adugna, Donald Hague, Jeffrey Bond, Richard Romer, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Fatmata Barrie

Guests Present: Ed Weiler, Dan Wilhem, Margaret Poore, Mensah Adjogah, Quintaria Brunson, Melissa McKenna, Paul Geller, Ashwani Jain, Rob Richardson, Marilyn Balcome, Mark Pharaoh, Mara Parker, Brian Anleu, Vikki Garcia

Staff Present: Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh and Linda Cooper.

Community attendee(s) were provided the opportunity to raise concerns that they wanted to have addressed at the appropriate time during the meeting. A concern was raised regarding the need to reduce/control the white-tail deer population in Burnt Mills; need for neighborhood security, police assistance to address drug dealing and homicide in a Colesville area neighborhood and Weed Warrior community projects in Calverton.

Approval of the November 1, 2017 Meeting Summary: A motion was made to approve the November 1, 2017 summary. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Presentation by Special Guests: Corey Pitts, Bus Rapid Transit Project Manager, Montgomery County Department of Transportation gave a presentation providing and overview/update on the U.S. 29 BRT Project. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- U.S. 29 BRT features – reliability, reduced travel time, onboard Wi-Fi, transit signal priority, off-board fare payment, well-lit canopy-covered stations;
- Service patterns and use of roadway;
- Project schedule – service to begin in 2020;
- Project budget - implementation cost is estimated to be \$31.5 million, \$10 million of which will be paid by the Federal government as part of a Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant;
- Project benefits - supports an estimated \$269-520 million of economic net benefit; and,
- Station features and proto-type design and preliminary designs for all eleven stations.

Questions were posed to and addressed by Mr. Pitts, including discussions on the following topics:

- White Oak Transit Center improvements – will be addressed as a separate project;
- Service will be operated by RideOn and plans are being worked on to integrate non-BRT service;
- Need to address traffic calming on Lockwood Drive near BRT station;
- Need for funding to add dedicated BRT lane south of Lockwood Drive; and
- Need to keep bus traffic flow manageable on Castle Blvd. turnaround loop.

ECCAB Sub-Committees Chairs for Planning/Economic Development and Quality of Life Updates: ECCAB Chair Peter Myo Khin reported that committee assignments were made and a chairperson selected for each. Committee assignments for the current term were finalized/announced.

Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh reported that (1) he has been working with WorkSource Montgomery on its expansion to the East County, expanded programming to include the East County RSC as hub and the Public Libraries/Recreation centers as Pop-Up sites; and (2) the projects within the Viva White Oak Science Gateway area approved by the Planning Board in 2014 are progressing well (Washington Adventist Hospital, Duffy Development Projects in Hillandale and the Viva White Oak Preliminary/Sketch Plan approved by the Planning Board November 30, 2017).

Update from Montgomery County 3rd and 4th Districts Police Department: Officers Diaz and Odenko reported that there has been no unusual crime activity in either district. Crimes have been limited to several burglaries and thefts from autos.

Update from Council Staff: Representative Mara Parker briefed the board on appropriations to combat gang and drug activity by focusing on the needs of high risk youth. She also reported that the County Council recently elected new officers. Public announcements were released.

Old Business: ECCAB Vice-Chair Curtis Watkins gave a report on the initial Board (ECCAB) Listening Session held on November 18 at the Praisner Recreation Center. Nine community members attended and the primary concern to emerge from the meeting was the need for affordable housing. Plans for future meetings will be addressed by the Quality of Life Committee.

Adjournment: This meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.